



ECLA European Company Lawyers Association

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ECLA NEWSLETTER, October 2019

Dear ECLA Members and Guests,

ECLA is done with events for the year! We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who joined us in 2019, whether it was for our Legal Disruption roadshow events across Europe, our General Counsel Roundtables, or our Annual Conference in Brussels. We have a number of exciting events planned for 2020, so stay tuned, as more information will come on our website soon!

We do have however some exciting publications coming soon, and our third and final webinar as well in November. Two of our major publications will be released early 2020 - our Legal Technology Study that will establish a comparative aspect for legal departments across Europe and see how they have responded to the challenge to modernise; and our Yearbook, which will showcase the status of the company lawyer across all jurisdictions of our member associations.

About

ECLA

ECLA Legal Technology Study

One of the many projects that ECLA is currently in progress of involves the status of legal departments across Europe - a comparative pan-European project that aims to show how legal departments in various countries have overall responded to the challenges that digitalisation has brought to corporate legal departments.

A part of our research for the study involves a 15-minute online questionnaire. The

questionnaire aims to map out the extent to which legal departments have transformed their processes and what does their future outlook look like.

The questionnaire can be done either on a computer or on mobile and all answers will be processed strictly anonymously.

As a thank you, we provide all participants with a free digital copy of the study in early 2020.

[Participate in the survey](#)

Webinar

ECLA Noon Webinars: How to implement technology in your legal department - 28 November 11:30-12:30 CET

Our third webinar will focus on the practical approaches to implementing and modernising processes in your legal departments. Our experienced speakers will give firsthand knowledge and tips on how to position yourself and your department to ensure a smooth transition and get the most out of your new and improved workplace.

[Register](#)

Legal Technology

German court rules legal bot is against the law

The Cologne District Court has ruled that the activities of Smartlaw, an online document generator provided by Wolters Kluwer, is unlawful. The key element is the requirement under German law for such documents to be provided by qualified solicitors. Wolters Kluwer has said to appeal the verdict.

[Read more](#)

Legal Privilege

England's Court of Appeal affirms "absolute nature" of legal privilege

The Court of Appeal of England & Wales has reaffirmed the absolute nature of legal privilege, attesting that there are no exceptions to it, unless an existing statute explicitly overrides it or the individual waives it.

[Read more](#)

Trade Dispute

Washington wins WTO approval for punitive tariffs on EU goods over Airbus subsidies

The dispute between Boeing and Airbus, and subsequently the United States and the European Union, continues. The arbitration panel ruled that the subsidies provided to Airbus by the EU resulted in lost sales for the American company, entitling the US to impose tariffs amounting to \$7.5 billion worth of goods from the EU.

[Read more](#)

Miscellaneous

European Legaltech Congress 2019, November 20-22 2019

The European LegalTech Association (ELTA) will be having their General Assembly and Annual Conference in November in Madrid, organising practical sessions for legaltech enthusiasts.

[Learn more](#)

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Your association is a member of ECLA.

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